

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraphs [0038], [0040], [0048], and [0049] with the following amended paragraphs:

[0038] Tube 31 is substantially cylindrical in shape and is made of surgical stainless steel or other material suitable to be driven into bone and used for plug extraction, as described below. Tube 31 has an inner ~~[[bore]]~~ bore 39 (see FIG. 2B) extending at least part way (and, preferable, all the way) along longitudinal axis A-A thereof (including through handle 33 and connector 32 as shown in FIG. 2A). The bore 39 has diameter sized in accord with the bone plugs to be harvested. A tapered edge 41 at the distal end of the tube 31 ~~[[which]]~~ facilitates movement of a bone plug (i.e., articular cartilage and/or underlying bone) into and out of inner bore 39.

[0040] The outer surface of cutting sheath 35 may also include one or more markings 35~~[[b]]~~a, as shown in FIG. 2B, to facilitate determination of a depth to which tube 31 and cutting sheath 35 are inserted into bone tissue and, thereby, to facilitate estimating the length of a harvested bone plug. In preferred embodiments of the invention, there are a plurality of such markings of cutting sheath 35, each of which is separated by a predetermined distance which, in preferred embodiments of the invention is roughly 5 mm.

[0048] FIGS. 6 and 7 show penetration of device 30--in particular, the distal end of tube 31 and cutting sheath 35--into donor site 50. Cutting edge 48 slices through donor site 50 to separate the bone plug 52 from surrounding tissue ~~[[54]]~~. Tapered edge 41 of tube 31 facilitates movement of bone tissue into inner bore 39 of tube 31.

[0049] Once tube 31 has been driven into donor site 50 a desired depth, e.g., as determined from markings 35~~[[b]]~~a, the bone plug 52 is further separated from the surrounding tissue by rotating device 30 (and, more particularly, cutting sheath 35) to undercut the plu~~[[s]]~~g 52, as shown in FIG. 8. Once rotated a complete (or near-complete) revolution, the distal end of device 30 is pulled from donor site, taking bone plug 52 with it. This is shown in FIGS. 9 and 10.